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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, February 9, 2009, at 2 p.m.

Senate

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable JEFF MERKLEY, a Senator from the State of Oregon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Guide us O Great Jehovah. We are pilgrims in this land. We are weak, but You are mighty. Lead us with Your powerful hands. As our lawmakers seek to follow You today, keep them from running ahead of Your will. Give them both the determination and means to renew their spiritual resources, broaden their vision, and enlarge their concept of Your purposes. Lord, may they grow daily, steadily in spiritual as well as in physical health.

Bless also the thousands of staffers who faithfully serve with great diligence behind the scenes. Remind them that You are aware of their work and that they will not lose their reward. Empower them this day to accomplish Your will. We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEFF MERKLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 7, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF MERKLEY, a Senator from the State of Oregon, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MERKLEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1, the Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The time for this discussion will be from now until 3 p.m. It will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. There will be no roll-call votes today, for the information of Members. The next vote will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1) making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 3 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees.

Who yields time? The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, this is a chance for us to engage in constructive discussion. It is still a very interesting proposition. I think it is going to pass, and it will be, in spite of what was said last night, bipartisan. In fact, it could not possibly pass without that being the fact.

There are a number of things in here which are called cuts, but I think it is very important we remember that these are, for the most part, not cuts from the present situation but cuts from the original stimulus package, which was cut by over \$100 billion, and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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